McGill Daily **Culture**

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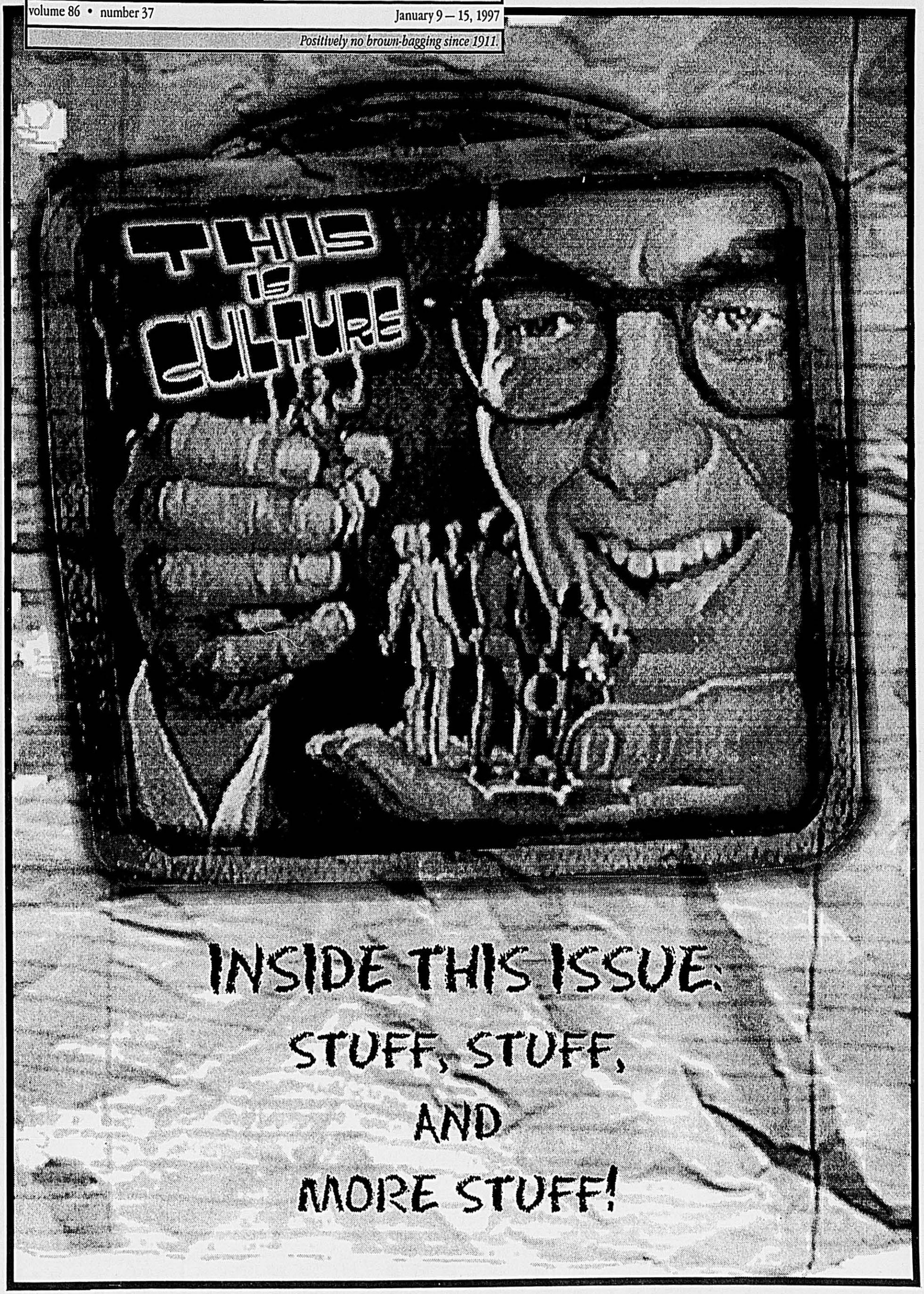

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(Prof. R. Lawton)

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H. Noel Fieldhouse Award for Distinguished Teaching

The H. Noel Fieldhouse Award For Distinguished Teaching is designed to recognize outstanding teaching in the Faculty of Arts, and is awarded each June at Convocation. All full-time academic staff who teach students in the Faculty of Arts are eligible for this award. Any student, alumnus, or member of the academic staff may submit a nomination. The committee requires for each nominee at least six nominating letters, three of which should be from current or former undergraduate students.

Thoughtful and detailed letters of nomination carry greater weight in the selection process than mere numbers of nominations. All types of teaching, from very large lectures to seminars, tutorials, and thesis direction, should be taken into consideration.

Deadline: Monday, February 3, 1997

Please send nominations to:
M. Deslauriers, Chair
Committee on Teaching
Department of Philosophy
Leacock Building
855 Sherbrooke St. West
Montreal, QC H3A 2T7

More than just an art-for-art's-sake tour de force

Hal Hartley refines his skills with Flirt

by julien lapointe

Hal Hartley's elusive and mysterious *Flirt* has a narrative structure reminiscent of French poet Raymond Queneau's *Exercises de style*. The film is a triptych: the same story told three times in different settings (New York, Berlin, Tokyo). But unlike Queneau, whose book narrates the same event several times in different styles, Hartley achieves more than just a clever art for art's sake *tour de force*. This picture (Hartley's sixth) uses its formal astuteness to expand its characters and central drama. Hartley takes the repetition of a specific situation and imparts it with an unexpected linearity. The film's tone and feeling develops over the course of its repeated story.

The plot is both meandering and simple. The protagonist of each episode is a "flirt" whose lover is about to go abroad on a trip. The flirt, already insecure above his/her love life, finds more trouble by getting romantically entangled with a friend's lover. At the end of every episode, the flirt ends up getting shot in the face; in the first two episodes by the vengeful and jealous friend.

In each case, the flirt (respectively Bill, Dwight and Miho) is a generally shallow and smug individual. Hartley, in keeping with his usual style, stages the early scenes in a deadpan, semi-ironic comic manner. The dialogue is purposely artificial and even a little silly ("I want to know the future." "I can't tell you the future."). In the opening third, Bill and his friends are presented as nothing more than a group of fatuous yuppies with nothing better to do than worry about their love lives. Our feelings for them are ambivalent and a little uncaring, though the humorous disenchanted tone holds our interest.

The second episode has a more realistic approach and the simple variance in tone gives the proceedings a higher level of dramatic plausibility. The flirt, Dwight, is by temperament more flamboyant, and therefore more amusing, though his charisma is the manipulative kind which enables him to seduce others. Yet the more straightforward nature of these sequences engage us more deeply into the drama itself and *Flirt*, already iconoclastic in its eccentric ambiance, rises above the level of mere comedy.

The final episode has a graceful, lyrical fluidity. Possibly because Hartley feels uneasy working in Japanese, he keeps the dialogue to a minimum (something unusual for him). However, this allows for a greater use of the film's visual resources in narrating the story. This detailed presentation of the characters' gestures, facial expressions and actions gives the mood a ponderous, studied rhythm. When Miho's despair leads to an attempted suicide (in a twist on the up until then established narrative), the film becomes elegiac and truly poignant.

The principal theme isn't so much contained within the segments themselves, but rather is realized through their cumulative entirety. In what might strike some as a false step, Hartley actually has one of his characters explain the purpose of the movie: "The filmmaker's project is to compare the changing dynamics of the same situation in different milieus." After which various characters attempt to determine whether or not a milieu can change the course of a situation.

A moment of intimacy between Greta and Dwight

The Brechtian device is meant to be pedestrian, but it's more than just a whimsical pun. It's significant that the "project" doesn't arrive at any decisive conclusion. Since the Berlin episode more tends to leave the queries of his characters unanswered. But he uses the dramatic conceit to express the whimsical but undeniably affecting banality of life. With a pre-determined plotline repeated three times, the characters become marionettes in Hartley's elaborate gameplay, and their absence of freedom over the outcome of their lives is part of the tragedy which makes the drama so moving. And all the while the deceptively frivolous appearance of the picture sustains a quiet ambiguity which gives *Flirt* its casual elegance.

Flirt has a clarity and dramatic intelligence unprecedented for Hartley. Of all the directors in the United States today, Hartley is the one who works closest to the influential trends set by Jean-Luc Godard 30 years ago. Both directors share the same penchant for turning the artifice of the film medium on its own head. But Hartley's skills so far were mainly those of a talented, albeit minor artist. His sensibility had a self-conscious eccentricity that both inspired his off-beat humour and limited his dramatic scope. With *Flirt*, he has refined his skills and his humour has a more disenchanted, almost surreal beauty. The film's originality has a spontaneous energy. Of all the resolutely "weird" American directors (Tim Burton, Quentin Tarantino, the Coen brothers, Jim Jarmusch), Hal Hartley is the first one to have elevated his particular style above the groundwork of artful strangeness.

Flirt opens tomorrow (January 10) at Cinéma Parallèle (3682 St-Laurent). It runs until January 30.

Round up the Unusual Suspects

Art and activism meet in new performance series

by noémi tousignant

Newest on the scene in a recent mushrooming of cabaret-type events is a series that promises to stand out from the usual brand of entertainment. *Unusual Suspects* will attempt to bring artistic performance and the real issues together on the same stage at Galerie IsArt this Friday with a mandate that calls for "any performance art form that addresses the social, the cultural and the political on a personal level..."

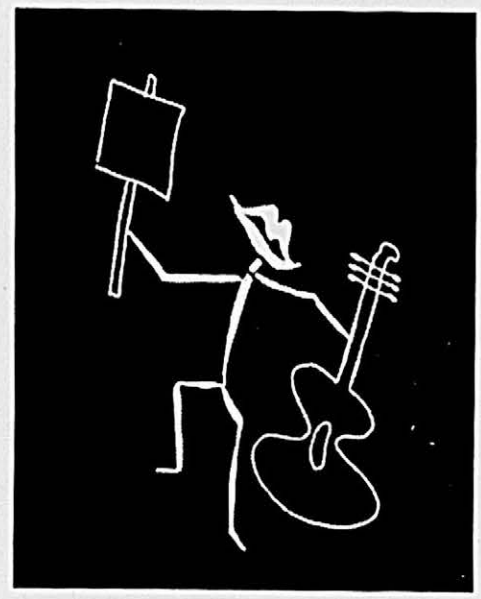
When Victoria Stanton, local spoken-word artist and the event's organizer, was first approached by IsArt with the idea of running a performance series, she wanted to find some sort of theme to bring attention to the event. She turned towards her own issue-oriented work for inspiration and decided to focus on a mandate which would bring artists and activists into the same space. She reports to have had a pretty good response, but one person she talked to warned her that "it's not very trendy to be political these days."

Many of the cabaret events out there seem to be primarily concerned with the entertainment value of the performance. Stanton hopes to be able to provide an opportunity for those who have been shying away from doing issue-oriented work by creating a forum for "voices that should be heard," as well as making contacts with those who are already doing interesting work. One of this Friday's participants has never performed before, but she is involved in both writing and environmental activism. This is exactly the kind of crossover that the event aims to encourage and recognize.

For Stanton, it is implicit that being concerned with political issues and dealing with the world should be incorporated into artistic expression, but, she says, "I realize that this link is not necessarily being made by other artists." *Unusual Suspects* will ideally show that political expression and artistic expression are not and should not be isolated.

"Activism also involves a lot of creative energy: intervention, protests... that's the political theatre," continues Stanton. Artistic expression is perhaps an ideal medium to liberate this creative energy, which can provide a fresh and personal perspective on issues that sometimes seem larger than life.

From consumerism to homophobia to rotten politicians, *Unusual Suspects* promises to provide a varied line-up, the appeal of which lies in the focus of the content as well as in the quality of the performance. Stanton points out that the acts are not necessarily radical. "This is not lecturing, and it's better than a classroom," says Stanton. "Performance space is supposed to be entertaining." *Unusual Suspects* is out there to merge enjoyment, expression and concern, a mandate with high goals but a lot of potential.



Galerie IsArt
263 St-Antoine Street West
Friday Jan.10th, 8 p.m.
Admission $3 at the door

hyde park

Other revenue alternatives for McGill

You may have noticed that Vice Principal Finance Heaphy has been making the rounds promoting the administration's new plan to institute "voluntary" user fees for such items as library holdings and computer facilities, with the threat of decreased funding for these items serving as motivation. We are the last to contend that McGill has no financial problems; however, there are other alternatives that we feel the McGill administration should be pursuing in order to help alleviate these financial woes. We would like to present a few options below for the University community to consider before resorting to drastic and potentially illegal measures:

Public Revenue:

• Lobby federal government to repeal bill C-76, the Canada Health and Social Transfer, which resulted in a cut of $8 billion to the provinces for Education and Social Programmes between 1995 and 2001, and to increase cash transfers to the provinces.

• Lobby the provincial government to maintain the funding level for Education

• Lobby the provincial government to change the funding formula for Universities such that McGill gets its fair share of provincial PSE grants.

• Lobby the provincial government to enforce a policy of mandatory retirement after age 65.

• Lobby the provincial government to amend its two year deficit elimination plan.

• Ensure that the Québec government instill a progressive taxation system, collecting substantially higher amounts from upper income brackets and profitable corporations.

• End Québec government grants and subsidies to profitable corporations.

• Impress upon the public the importance of Post-Secondary Education for creating jobs and for developing science to help the advancement of health care, technology and environmental management for the public good. Encourage the public to support governmental funding of PSE on these grounds.

• Work together with the AUCC (Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada) to lobby the governments with a strong and united voice for PSE. Some other actions the AUCC (and McGill) could follow to influence government policy:

• Call for the creation of a Higher Education Act (parallel to the Canada Health Act) which makes federal transfer payments to provinces contingent on meeting criteria set by the government, such as meeting certain tuition fee levels and offering education that meets federal quality standards.

• Recognize tuition fees and other user fees as a barrier to accessing PSE.

• Run a public campaign to highlight the fact that the Federal government has already allowed for the evolution of a post-secondary system where participation is increasingly a function of wealth.

Private Revenue:

• Rigorously solicit donations from alumni.

• Contact the parents of all currently enrolled students, encouraging them to donate funds to the operating budget of libraries, computing facilities, etc. while their child is still enrolled at McGill.

• Encourage businesses and sponsors to donate "no-strings-attached" funds for the operating budget.

• Use money from the 21st century campaign (which earned over $200 million) for operating services such as libraries and computing facilities.

Linda Carlson, President
Erin Runions, vp External Affairs
Post Graduate Students Society
Local 79, Canadian Federation of Students

Don't come to our staff meeting.

(Thursday, 17h30, Shatner B-03)

letters

Mille grazie

To the Daily,

My sincere thanks to the four Italian professors whose courses I followed during the past four months. All of them were most helpful when they noted my lack of hearing. It was a real pleasure to study under them. Mille grazie!

M. Howard

Need more eye-candy:
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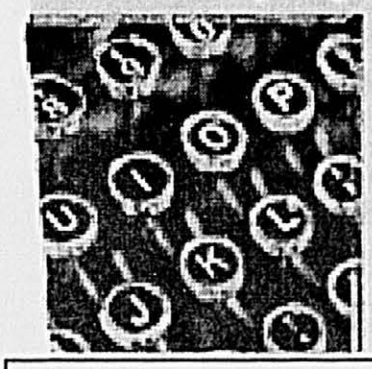
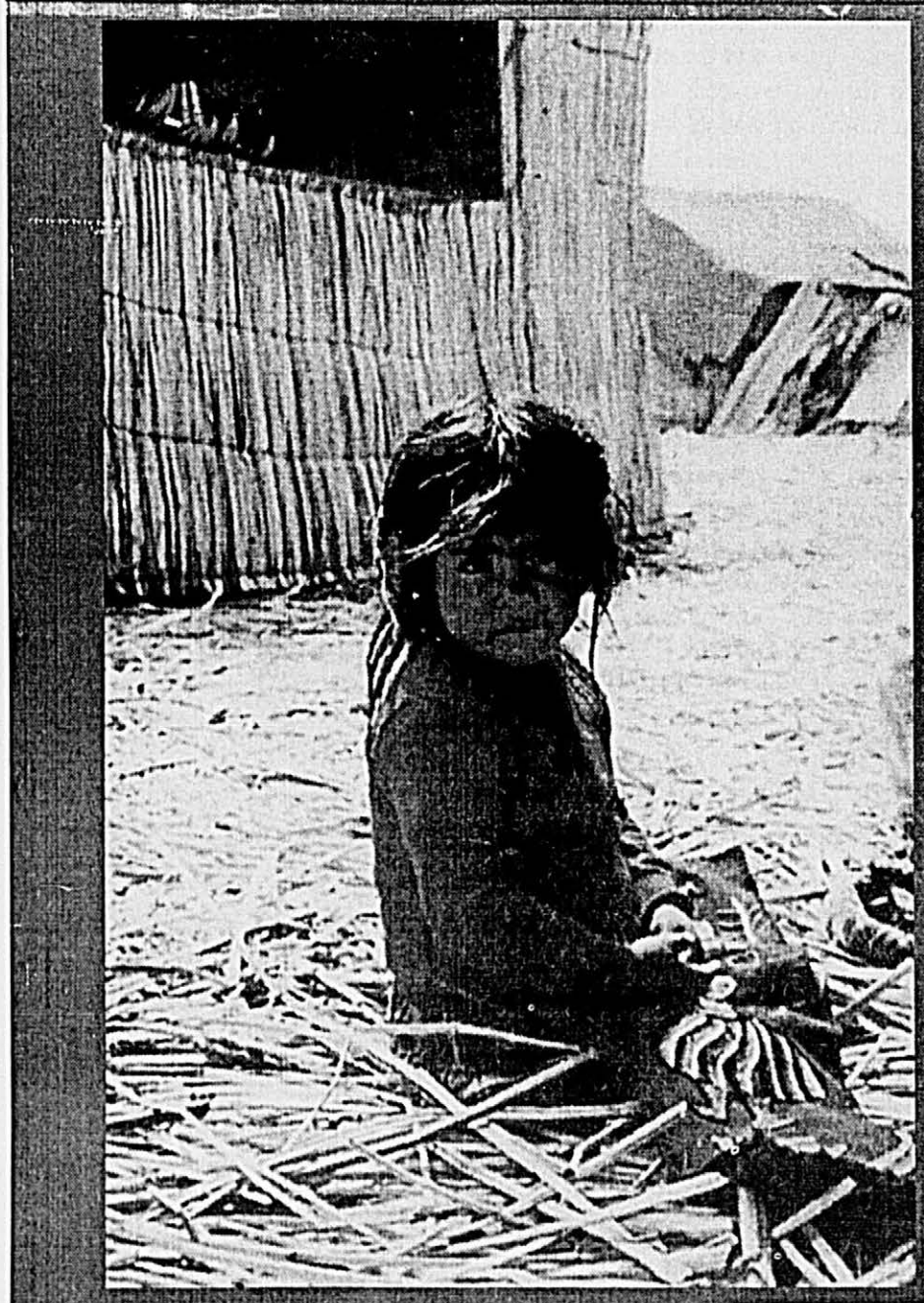
Submit photographs!



Shatner B-03

...off the darkroom floor



"la dulcita"

by suzanne hamm

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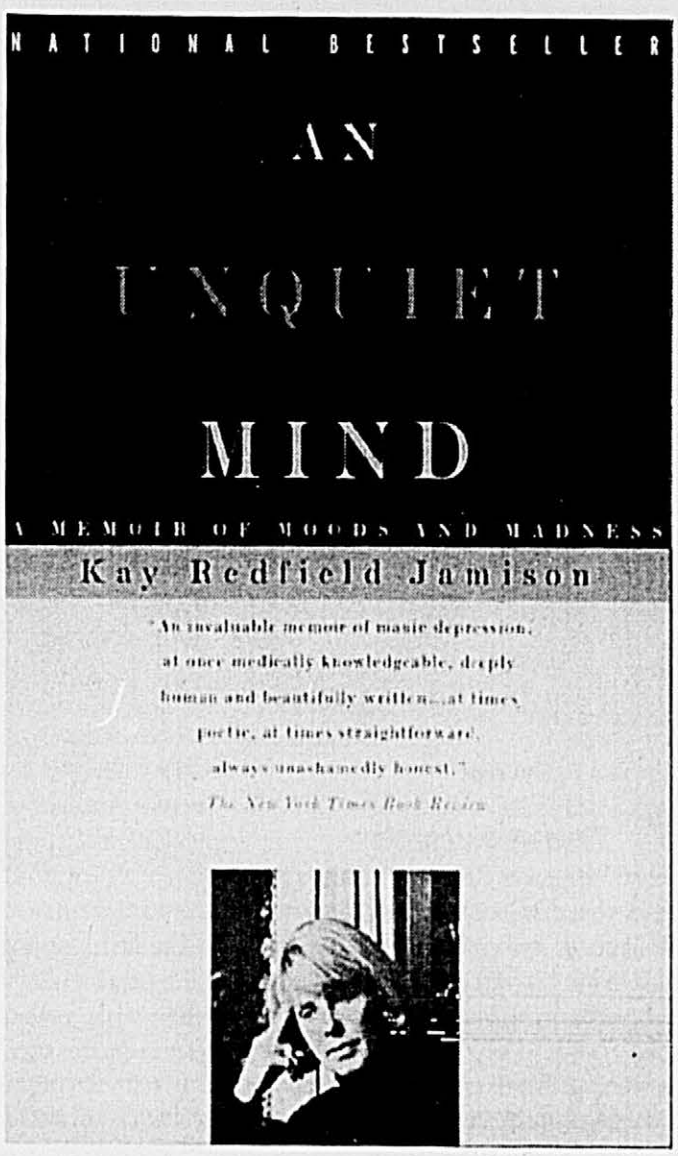
A Memoir of survival

Jamison's The Unquiet Mind insightful but not a 'self-help' book

by marikotamaki



It is perhaps interesting to note that I was not the only one in my family reading *The Unquiet Mind* during the winter break: by coincidence, both my mother and I started and finished the novel during the holiday. In the end, for different reasons, we both really enjoyed the novel. My mother said that after watching me suffer from depression for the past six or seven years, the novel was both insightful and reassuring. For her, Jamison's book was an assurance that mental illness was not the end of the world, and a reminder that people suffering from mental illnesses could survive. For myself, the novel was reassuring by virtue of its mere existence. Possibly one of the most trying elements of mental illnesses like depression and manic-depression are their invisibility. Mental illness feels like both a secret and a lie, the problem no one wants to talk or hear about. What makes Jamison's book important is that it refuses to hide behind either society's fear of this illness or any sort of clinical distance.

"Manic-depression distorts moods and thoughts, incites dreadful behaviors, destroys the basis of rational thought, and too often erodes the desire and will to live. It is an illness that is biological in origins, yet one that feels psychological in the experience of it..."
- from The Unquiet Mind

As a professor of psychiatry, author Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison is more than an "authority" on manic-depression, she is, moreover, a survivor of this illness. *The Unquiet Mind*, her second book, documents and discusses this illness on two levels: one which is somewhat clinical and distanced and another which is intensely personal and moving.

The focus of this novel, or memoir, is the writer's experience of the turbulent highs and lows of manic-depression, dating back to adolescence. The advantage of time and medical knowledge gives Jamison a degree of hind-sight and insight in relation to her past, so that in some parts of the novel Jamison appears to be her own psychiatrist.

At several points in the novel, Jamison interrupts the narrative with text written in italics. These sections, in contrast to the rest of the novel which flows like a story, are similar to diary entries. It is these sections of *The Unquiet Mind* which are the most moving. In these sections the author takes more of a first person approach to her struggles involved in dealing with mental illness. Jamison finds herself asking questions, wondering and hypothesizing philosophically over the conflicts that arise out of the treatment and experience of mental illness.

My only real criticism of the novel is in regards to Jamison's treatment of those elements and characters other than herself. Whereas Jamison is brutally honest in her discussion of herself and her illness, she appears less than honest when discussing others. Jamison's description of her family life, for example, sounds at times like it was taken from an episode of *The Brady Bunch*. Possibly this is an accurate description, but a reader cannot help but wonder if the outside elements of Jamison's life are too perfect. The result is that those segments of the novel in which Jamison discusses them appear false.

Although I believe Jamison's book is an important work, I would not go so far as the jacket's cover which claims that *The Unquiet Mind* is a book that can "save" lives. *The Unquiet Mind* is an insightful documentation of Jamison's "salvation" (so to speak) but it is not a self-help book. It is a testament to the fact that illnesses like manic-depression are exactly that, illnesses. Jamison's book does not claim to act as a remedy for those suffering from manic-depression (or any other mental illness), rather it invests faith in the employment of medication and counseling in combating mental illness.

"What then, after the medications, psychiatrist, despair, depression, and overdose? All those incredible feelings to sort through. Who is being too polite to say what? Who knows what? What did I do? Why? And most hauntingly, when will it happen again?"
- from The Unquiet Mind

The Unquiet Mind is published by Vintage Books ($16.95) and is available in some bookstores.

McGill **Work Study Program**

The Student Aid Office is pleased to announce the continuation of the Work Study Program for the 1996-97 academic year! In addition to our regular funding, the Science Undergraduate Society has continued their contribution to the Work Study Program to create positions in the Faculty of Science for science students.

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Bulletin BOARDS: the original digital underground lives on. *Off-roading the infobahn*

by mike cullen

Tired of the Internet-relay chat? Do you hate the hoopla and hype of the Internet blitz? Or is the busy signal from the McGill server just getting to you? If the answer is yes, then have a look at cyberspace's best kept secrets — Bulletin board systems (BBSes).

The virtual explosion of the Internet (pun intended) over the past few years has overshadowed its humble predecessors but has not eliminated the local dial-up systems that preceded the popularization of the Internet.

Long before the Pentagon's think-tank realm became publicly available for access in the mid-80s, hobby programmers were setting up dial-up systems in the late 70's. The early ones were programmed by their system operators (Sysops), who ran their boards out of the basements and bedrooms where they quickly became an underground resource for all sorts of activity — both legal and illegal. But enough nostalgic techie talk. Here's the real dope.

Cheap, social and distinctive are the three characteristics that for many make BBSes a more enticing cyber-option than the Internet. "That most of them are free is an important fact for most young users," says André Chevallaz of St. Leonard. "A lot of them will have a computer, but not necessarily the bucks to upkeep an Internet account." of surfing the 'Net not more expen- fees (which can and up). The users to own than run at 14,400 at least.

with an inherited modem (e.g. online services the Internet — plains the glut of BBSers this age.

Furthermore, BBSing remains a social exercise for many.

"It is a way of meeting people who would otherwise remain outside of your circle of acquaintances," says Kirkland resident Julien Smith. "...People meet easily when in a BBS; this is the nature and the goal of the system[s]."

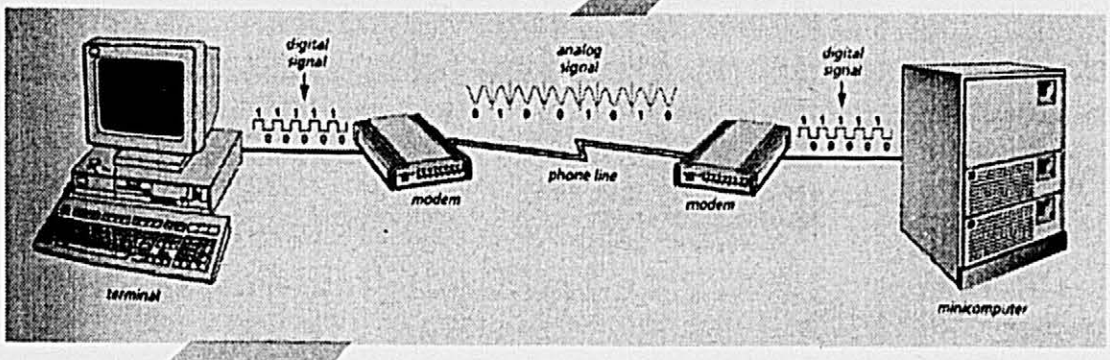
The social convenience of BBSing lies in multiplying exponentially the number of people you come into contact with (depending on how many BBSes you call, of course) while being able to innocuously screen for people of common interests.

BBSes also inevitably become forums for personal expression and public debate.

"It is simple for one to exchange ideas and opinions without the bias which is sometimes encountered during an actual face-to-face conversation," says Smith.

This freedom also means that views many find offensive will be tolerated more on some systems than others. Usually the group pressures of the system collective will be effective in 'shouting down' or ignoring users with ideas that are unpalatable to the majority. These extremists tend to collect on boards with like-minded or unusually tolerant people. But these are few and secretive.

For first-time users, the trick is to find a system or a group of systems who have users (and a system operator) you feel comfortable with — a process that usually takes some searching. A tip from a friend or finding a BBS that has extensive local listings of other boards will give you a good start.



Themes and costs

The real appeal of BBSes, however, is the widely varying character of each system — the system operator (sysop) can tailor the system not only to her/his own desires or the needs of the board's users, but to whatever theme they like. So if your object of worship is the *Simpsons*, your board can be literally transformed into a Springfield shrine. In other words, the possibilities are endless.

The only analogue to this in Internet terms are Internet sites which are personalized gateways to the Internet but are run by the select few who have the technical expertise to run them. The money for the equipment can run into the tens of thousands. Otherwise, other Internet servers that operate on user bases of thousands are forced to run generic non-themed services.

Sysoping a BBS (the act of running one) has its own pitfalls as well, since you are committing time, energy, and an entire phone line as well as the expense of its upkeep and, of course, your computer.

But if you're diligent and clever, your board can garner social and technical rewards (like computer files) that you couldn't otherwise imagine. Think about people sending you great programs to your house for free. Hmmm.

What has allowed BBSes to survive this long? BBSes can be run by just about anybody — kids barely into their teens up to pensioners can operate these systems at home. The software, which can range from shareware to higher-end commercial programs such as Firtclass (like the Mirror's Babylon BBS), are all well documented and relatively user-friendly. BBS software that is Shareware (where you are given a period of time to try it out before sending money) is easy to find. Remember how fast the popular Shareware game Doom got around? The way the BBS software is spread in basically the same way: people copy it and upload it to BBSes for others to download.

Otherwise, the only other cost involved for most is the monthly phone bill for a one-line BBS — everything else can be obtained at no cost from other BBSes and even the Internet.

Regulation and illegality

Reason number two for the popularity of BBSes is that they operate in a regulatory vacuum; no standards of operation exist anywhere in North America. Although the Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC) has threatened to regulate the existence of bulletin boards, nothing has come of it yet.

Thus, unlike the Internet, BBSes are not subject to scrutiny by the greater public or government because they are too isolated and numerous to keep track of.

This, of course, makes BBSes the ideal stomping grounds for anarchists, black market services, and personal expression. The less scrupulous and law abiding can freely exchange ideas and information at no cost.

Information can be found on BBSes that comes from or is ultimately destined for the Internet. Anything from making bombs (the publication of which is protected by U.S. constitutional provisions but whose use is illegal) to great vegetarian recipes.

The illegal copying of commercial software is also rampant, despite stiff penalties for conviction of the offense. BBSes are frequently the first dumping grounds for "cracked" copies of software, or programs whose copy protection has been removed or by-passed.

A word to the wise though: law enforcement authorities are not ignorant of the existence of BBSes. A Montreal area bust of 17 BBSes in the spring of 1995 sent a strong warning to boards carrying illegal software. Some sysops realized that the threat of being caught was real and packed up shop for good or laid low for weeks after the bust.

It shouldn't be surprising that many urban municipal police forces have computer crime divisions that devote a small part of their operations to cracking down on cyberspace illegalities. Since the Internet is too broad for any one local agency to tackle, local systems are the next step down.

Police agents will log on undercover to examine the contents of a BBS to see whether it is host to illegal activities or illegally obtained information or software.

The only safeguards that sysops have against law enforcement tactics is to ask new users whether or not they belong to a law enforcement agency. Apparently, the police must identify themselves as law enforcement agents in response to questions like, "Are you affiliated to any law enforcement agency?" before they can prosecute a sysop. In such an instance, any charges risk being throw out court for reason of entrapment.

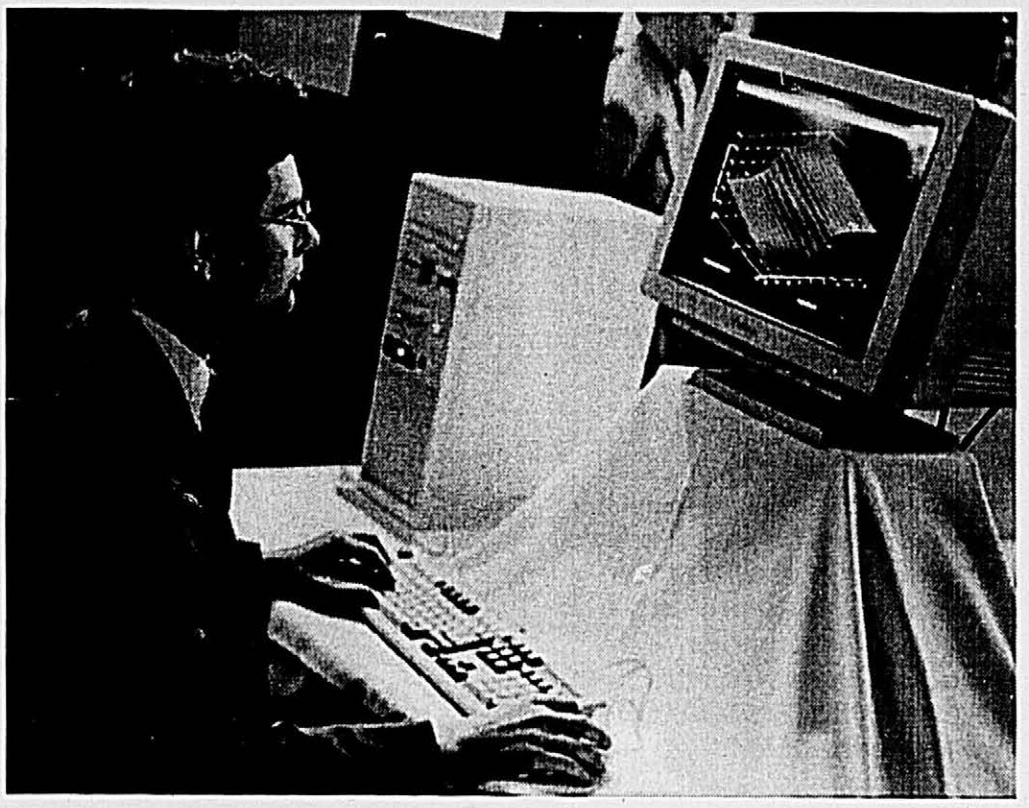
The other method is the verify each user's identity by performing a voice-call validation whereupon a system operator or co-system operator (co-sysop) calls the new applicant by normal phone to verify their existence, stats, etc.

But these pitfalls are inapplicable to most users. Unless a user writes a file with his/her name on an illegal piece of software, BBSing is a safer activity than taking a nap.

As for messaging activity, it is absolutely safe for the most part, but it is governed by the same scrutiny as a search and seizure warrant. For example, don't talk about killing your parent/sibling that just passed away.

Tête-à-tête with the 'Net?

OK, no more legal quibbling. How do BBSes stack up to the Internet? The basic features of the Internet are all capable of being mirrored by BBSes; e-mail, public messages posting (like newsgroups) and file transfers. The only characteristics that are not emulated is the instantaneous communication offered by the Internet and its universal, world-wide reach.



Nevertheless, networks exist between some individual BBSes that overcome some of these apparent deficiencies allowing for e-mail and message transfers as far as the network reaches — up to and including across the globe for a few (with a few days' delay).

It is important to note that BBS networks operate on the packet switching method of transferring data rather than dedicated lines like the Internet. That means that BBSes connect to others through the phone and only for the amount of time necessary to transfer the files or messages destined to other BBSes in the network(s) they belong to.

It works like this: computer A dials up computer B and both computers exchange information if there is any and they both hang up when the data transfer is finished. The receiving computer(s) in turn call the others in the network; repeating the process. The Internet uses bundles of dedicated lines that run from site to site and can carry millions of data requests at a time. This means that Internet nodes are constantly connected and transfer data on their own lines that are separate (and faster) than the phone system. It is important to understand that the Internet is not the fabled information superhighway, but a network of tens of thousands of computers sharing information and services. So we're not talking about the same scale or speed when we compare networks.

However, the reach of the Internet can extend to BBSes and vice-versa. Some BBSes are customized to accept Internet newsgroups and e-mail thereby supporting a mix of both networking technologies. Other differences include the graphical user interfaces (or lack thereof) between BBSes and the Internet. Most small-scale BBSes have text based interfaces with the old colour graphics adapter (CGA) computer screen standard of the mid-80s. A few attain the full colour graphics and mouse interface that Windows and Mac users are used to, however. BBSes that do have this option offer free software to connect with them just like America Online (AOL) does.

Incidentally, AOL is not part of the Internet as many might think, but rather a complex, multi-lined and multi-noded (as in it is in many cities) version of a BBS that is connected to the Internet. This is where things get a little murky between the two communications based siblings, BBSes meld seamlessly into the Internet in some instances that for all intents and purposes, they are part of. In fact, any BBS that connects with the Internet can be referred to as an Internet gateway. The only differences between BBSes and Internet gateways are the way the service connects, the rate at which it connects and the frequency of connection to the Internet.

Overall, the Internet will give you a greater breadth of services with better graphics and vast database resources. But for funkier themes and local social interaction, BBSes are hard to beat.

Cyberspace becomes real when you meet someone

This is the juicy part. The most interesting thing about BBSing is that you can meet some of the cool local people you wrote to or chatted with online (well, I think so anyway).

AIIE!! I don't wanna meet Joe Blow who hit on me/was rude/sounded boring. Hey, you can discriminate, can't you? Do it. But have no fear, as most sysops are smart enough to organize periodic meetings of people on their BBSes called "GTs," or get-togethers. Usually held in public places, these meetings are usually safe environments to do the vis-à-vis thing. That way, you don't have to convince your roommate to go with you on short notice.

Groups of regular GT goers have a habit of forming a clique, both online and off but that's no different than people who frequent the same IRC channels or eat at the same café every day. But like most social events, just take the plunge. More often than not, you'll be pleasantly surprised.

For people you already know, BBSes can become something more than an e-mail service or a message base; it can become a communal answering machine by accident.

What's the point anyway? Well, BBSes can become as complex and interactive as human relations in cyberspace permit. It's an alternative way to keep in touch with people, pursue hobbies and make real life connections. So if you're looking for a cheap way to keep in touch with friends and/or family over the winter break and summer, check out the local bulletin boards and find one that fits your needs.

For more information, you can contact Mike (the author) at blob@musicb.mcgill.ca, http://www.geocities.com/sunsetstrip/towers/2007 or on his Bulletin board at (514)487-8501, 24hrs a day.

Netspeak and the BBSer lingo

The abbreviations and shorthand used by Internet users and bulletin board system users (BBSers) is similar but not necessarily the same. The purpose is the same, however; both seek to minimize the amount of time needed to convey a phrase or expression while creating an immediately recognizable set of symbols. BBSers also have a tendency to "stylize" normal terms to make them more distinctive. People will add z's to the end of words (e.g. "linez" instead of "lines") or lazily abbreviate them ("tho" instead of "though").

There can be some differences in interpretation but it is generally accepted that expressions written in capitals are recognized as being more forceful than in small type.

The following is a sampler of the major expressions and what they mean.

:)

The smile. Means happiness or a point in conversation where you're smiling. It has other variants such as :>, :)))) -meaning huge smile.

BTW

This refers to the expression, "by the way,..." A very commonly used abbreviation.

TTYL, TTYS. TTFN

Talk to you later, talk to you soon and tah-tah for now – expressions used to end a message or conversation on friendly or polite terms.

(G)

This means "grin." Other variations include <g>, (g). These can be classified into a hierarchy where one is a bigger grin than another (e.g. (g) is a small grin whereas (GRIN) is the biggest).

:P

This is the tongue sticking out of the corner of your mouth. Usually used to indicate derision or ridicule in a humorous sense (or just plain loopiness).

;)

The wink. Used to indicate a conspiratory air or a flirtatious one, this one is a staple of the irc sex channels. Go figure.

Warez

This refers to illegally copied commercial software.

Newbie

A new user; a new BBSer or Internet surfer.

World Watch

1. The six minute labour law fiasco

Striking workers in South Korea are asking for international solidarity against new repressive labour laws in the country, introduced just prior to the new year.

The workers, who have been on strike since December 26, have become the target of a government crackdown in which at least 40 leaders of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) have been summoned to trial and arrested.

The strike began after Kim Young Sam's ruling New Korea party met at six o'clock in the morning on December 26, passing 11 new labour laws in six minutes. No opposition party members were present at the meeting.

The new laws include provisions allowing companies to impose job cuts, eliminating the life long job security of South Korean workers.

Up to 150,000 workers responded immediately by declaring the laws "null and void" and holding massive strikes that shut down major auto industry plants and major shipyards. Production lines at Hyundai, Kia and Ssangyong plants were closed, causing a daily loss of 5,500 cars.

The government apologized for pushing through the bills without debate but maintained that the laws will benefit Korea by creating competitiveness in the labour market.

The government action also comes as a result of Korea's new commitment to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, a group of industrialized nations. In the spirit of the organization, Korea is aiming to create a more flexible labour market.

The crackdown which began early this week has spurred the KCTU to ask for international support. The workers are asking unions around the world to hold a day of solidarity with the South Korean strike on January 10.

Source: Peacenet: info@igc.apc.org

2. A year of peace?

After years of news reports about rebels in the mountains battling it out with the government's armed forces, Guatemalans finally celebrated the end of a long internal war.

Just in time for the new year, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit (URNG) and the government of President Alvaro Arzu signed the last 10 agreements of a peace accord which includes a call for a truce.

Since then, dozens of exiled commanders of the resistance movement have been returning to Guatemala where they have been met by ecstatic greetings from hundreds of supporters.

This atmosphere is encouraging in a country in which a 36-year old civil war claiming over 140,000 dead meant that even to talk about supporting the indigenous Mayan peoples could lead to a death sentence.

In a ceremony on December 28, returning Mayan resistance leaders were welcomed by the government peace commission, including army generals and United Nations peace brokers.

The war, which began in 1962 after two guerrilla groups attempted to topple the military dictatorship of the time, saw the government attempting to eliminate the indigenous Mayan population. Successive dictatorships continued the war against Mayan fighters who based themselves in the mountains. Throughout, the government forces were supported by the United States under the aegis that the Mayan Guerrillas were communists.

With international pressure growing in the 1990s and with the Mayan leader Rigoberta Menchu being granted the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992, prompted attempts at peace.

After a four-year long process, peace may finally become a reality.

Source: Arm the Spirit: ats@locust.cic.net

3. Ten worst multinationals singled out for bad practices

Most people know Mitsubushi, Disney and Seagram's for their flashy ads, not their unacceptable business practices. But a recent issue of *Multinational Monitor* magazine lists these among the ten worst corporations of 1996.

The magazine's ninth annual list is designed to highlight the most glaring acts of corporate crime, environmental degradation and other wrongdoings. Other corporation on this year's list included Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Caterpillar, Daishowa, Daiwa, Freeport, Gerber and Texaco.

According to the article, ADM's price-fixing crimes cost consumers $500 million last year. The article's author Russell Mokhiber, comments that white-collar fraud continues to be overlooked by society whereas 'street crime' is not. Other reasons for making the ten worst list include:

- Mitsubishi's destruction of tropical rain forest land and sexual harassment at Mitsubishi Motor's Illinois facility. Mitsubishi has also been the target of boycotts in the past for its involvement in the military junta-ruled Burma.

- Daishowa Inc.'s clear-cutting of Alberta forest land. Daishowa also sued Canadian citizen group, the Friends of the Lubicon Cree for trying to raise public awareness about the company's practices on Lubicon land claim territory.

- Gerber's pressure tactics on the Guatemalan government to exempt its products from the country's infant formula law.

- Freeport McMoran's pollution of areas near one of its copper mining sites in Irian Jaya, Indonesia.

- Texaco's mistreatment of minority employees.

Multinational Monitor was founded by consumer advocate Ralph Nader in 1980 to cover issues of multinational corporate power.

Source: The alternative news service: http://www.tao.ca/wind/ainfos.html

4. Zapatistas freed by Mexican judge

Seven alleged Zapatista rebels were freed by a Mexican judge last week. The ruling occurred almost two years after their arrest on terrorism charges which triggered a full-scale manhunt for Zapatista leader Subcommander Marcos.

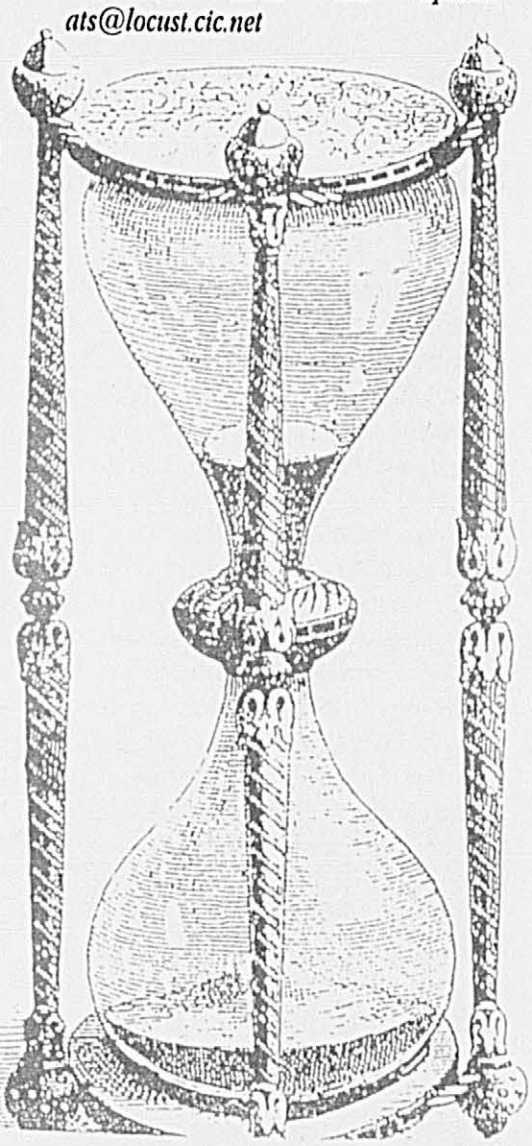
The rebels were arrested in February 1995 on a roster of charges including terrorism, firearms possession and rebellion. President Ernesto Zedillo said at the time that the rebels were preparing for a terrorist campaign aimed at taking the Zapatista conflict beyond the southeastern city of Chiapas.

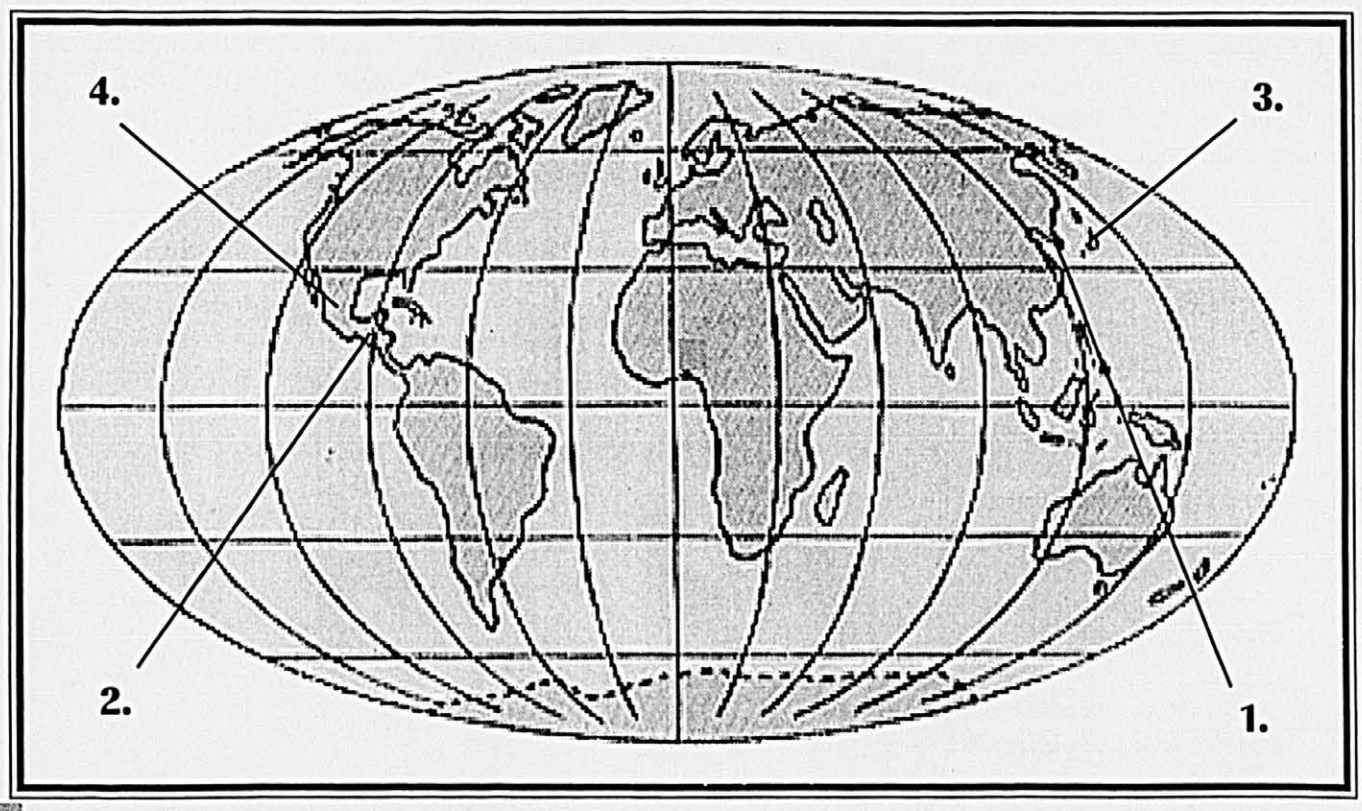
Zedillo used the discovery of arms in Mexico City and the eastern state of Veracruz to explain the launch of a massive hunt for Marcos, who has led the Zapatista National Liberation Front since it started the rebellion for indigenous rights in January 1994.

Zedillo released the subcommandante's name—which had been kept secret until then—after arresting the Zapatista suspects. Despite sending 2,000 troops to Chiapas, however, Zedillo failed to catch him.

Recently, there have been signs of a thawing between the two adversaries. In December, they swapped letters in an unusual bid to improve troubled peace efforts.

Source: Arm the Spirit: ats@locust.cic.net





Events

Thursday January 9

• The **MCRTW** presents Mohini Anjum from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi who will speak on "Muslim Women in India" at the MCRTW seminar room, 3487 Peel Street, 15h30.

Friday, January 10

• The **Yellow Door** presents an Evening of Folk music featuring Rachel Smith and Jason Lang, with an open stage to follow

Admission is $3, 20h. 3625 Aylmer, info: 398-6243.

Saturday, January 11

• **Yellow Door** Fundraiser with James Gow and Jacky and Friends, Admission $5, 20h.

• **Temple Emanu-el Beth Shalom**
Etude de la Torah en Français. Prof. Moshe Elkayam. 395 la rue Elm, Westmount, 19h30.

Sunday, January 12

• Storytelling at the **Yellow Door**, Admission $3, 19h30.

• *Culture and Enterprise Among the Amish*
A film by Dr. Leo-Paul Dana. Temple Emanu-el Beth Shalom, Free. 395 Elm Westmount.

Monday, January 13

• **Hillel Jewish Student Centre** is offering Hebrew Classes for beginners starting tonight. 8 week session, cost is $65. 3460 Stanley St. Info: 845-9171

Wednesday January 15

• Tricky with Jeru the Damaja and guest DJ at the Spectrum For info 790-1245

• **Hillel Jewish Student Centre** is offering advanced to beginner Hebrew classes starting tonight, 8 week session, cost is $65. 3460 Stanley St. Info: 845-9171.

Friday, January 17

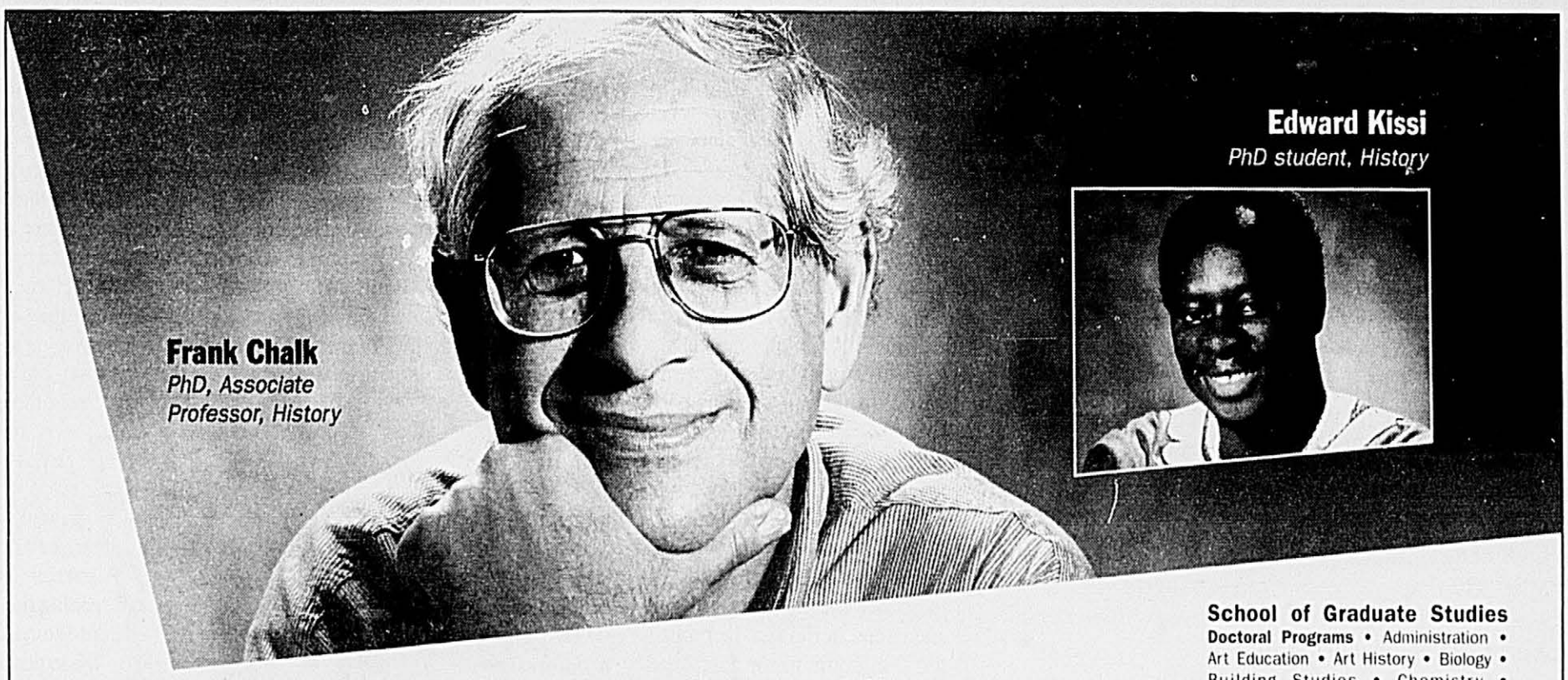
• "Literacy, Health and Professional Liability Speakers: Deborah and Carolena Gordon
A seminar presented by the **Centre for Lieracy**, from 9h to 16h. Info: Beth Wall at 931-8731 ext. 1415

Ongoing

• An Adoption Support Group for adopted adults, birth parents, and adoptive parents on the topic of the search for biological relatives and adoption reunion is being offered by the **McGill School of Social Work**. Info: Carol Cumming Speirs at 398-8450.

• **AMI Québec** (Alliance for the Mentally ill Inc.) has various support groups around Montréal. Info: 486-1448.

• The **Scrivener Creative Review** wants your black and white art and photography. Submissions can be dropped off in the Scrivener mailbox at the Porter's office in the Arts Building. Deadline: January 15. Info: 848-0578



Understanding genocide to save lives

From the Holocaust to man-made famines
History Professor Frank Chalk, a New York native, and Ghana-born doctoral student Edward Kissi share an intimate and profound knowledge of genocide and of its devastating effects throughout history.

Dr. Chalk specializes in the historical understanding of genocide and is renowned worldwide for his Holocaust-related research. He is one of the founders and major driving forces behind the Montréal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, an organization which seeks to develop and mobilize scholarly resources on genocide.

Edward Kissi has always thought that many of the famines which have afflicted African countries were political and man-made, strategic tools used to achieve military objectives. Armed with a Rockefeller Foundation grant and with the help of Dr. Chalk, he set off for Ethiopia in 1994 to test his own theories. He found little comfort in being right.

Towards a more humane future
As Dr. Chalk so aptly puts it: "Understanding the ideologies of hate that drive people to genocide is the first step in working towards a more humane future." And that is very much on his and Kissi's agendas. In the spring of 1996, Chalk travelled to The Hague where he helped prosecutors in the coming war crimes trials of former Rwandan and Yugoslavian leaders prepare the cases they will present to the International Criminal Tribunal. As for Kissi, he plans on returning to Ghana to assist in development efforts which, he hopes, will "help turn things around in Africa."

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Promoting in Montréal

The people who bring you your bands, shows and parties

by karl raudsepp-hearne

Several years ago Green Day came to Calgary. The Calgary University Ballroom was booked, the band had just blown up all across North America and had signed a contract paying them $4,000 to play the concert. Everything was set, "until their agent started asking me about taxes. I was just a kid, I didn't know the details and..." the band jumped to a major promoter in town and played a bigger show at a better venue.

Joel Pash, a 19-year-old student and McGill's on-campus concert promoter tells the story with a shrug. Landing a big name like Green Day back when he worked in Calgary, would be exactly the break a young promoter would need to get himself established. Working under the name of Vicious Entertainment, Pash has an agreement with SSMU to provide live music at Gert's pub and earlier in the year he brought the Doughboys to the SSMU ballroom. His near-success story is typical of the challenges faced by struggling young promoters in the music business.

Promoting, whether it be parties, bands or clubs, means contacting venues and bands or DJ's, bringing them together and hyping the event through every possible source. The promoter is the eternal middleman, making sure everything is running smoothly and everyone is happy while trying to get a cut of the profit for himself.

Promoters must build relationships with band agents, venue owners and more established promoters. People who love the scene they're a part of, whether it be rave, punk or hip-hop, often see promoting as a way for them to stay in that scene, make a name for themselves, promote their own style of music and hopefully make a living. Of course there are a lot more would-be promoters than there are established names.

"It's all about putting your time in and sticking with it," says Montréal's Rickey D., a hip-hop promoter who brought groups such as The Roots and Outkast to Montréal as well as running Friday nights at Tantra with his partner Shaheed. He tells how he started off working with another promotion company for three years before he began making it on his own. Recently he co-promoted the sold-out Fugees show at the Molson centre with partner Gary T. and Donald K. Donald (DKD) productions, the major promoting power in Montréal.

Dan Webster, who works for DKD, says that his company does try to work with young promoters and local talent whenever possible. Owned by the Molson family, DKD has over twenty employees and generally promotes every large-scale concert event in Montréal, from Alanis to Pink Floyd.. Webster himself started out in a band but soon found he was better at booking his own shows than playing music. While working at Foufounes Electriques he promoted the first two Nirvana shows in Montreal. When Nirvana became hugely popular and returned for a third visit they contacted DKD to promote their concert, but demanded that Dan Webster work on the show as well. From that point on he continued to work closely with DKD and they eventually hired him permanently. "The unwritten law of promoting," he says, "is treat your bands well. If you can work with them when they're young, they'll remember you later on if you were good to them."

GRAPHIC BY MIKE CULLEN

Victor Shiftman of Victor Shiftman Presents would agree, but he urges young promoters to be extremely careful in their dealings with agents and venues. His company Victor Shiftman Presents brings all kinds of bands to Montréal, from Boy George to Jamiroquai. He also works closely with Greenland productions who are responsible for 95% of alternative shows in Montreal, from the Smashing Pumpkins and Cranberries to the punk rawk of the Spaceshits. Both promoters often work in collaboration with DKD on bigger shows.

Young promoters should be careful about paying too much cash for shows and should make sure their paperwork is always in order, says Shiftman.

One of the many details a promoter is responsible for is ensuring that none of the non-Canadian band-members he books have criminal records. When U.S. rapper Craig Mack came to do his show in Montréal his agent promised Shiftman that everything was in order. Upon arrival however, two of the rappers thanked Shiftman for arranging the show, telling him they were on probation and that their parole officer didn't even know they were there. If they'd been checked at the border the show would have been canceled and Shiftman would have been shafted, having already sold a lot of tickets.

On a more positive note, Shiftman says that Montréal has one of the top ten concert markets in North America and urges would-be promoters to put a lot of effort into their ideas, be professional and go for it.

Ren Lalchin is one Montrealer who has been hard at work on handing out flyers at raves and throwing small parties for the last three years. The rave scene, dominated by such promoters as Channel Productions (who recently brought the Chemical Brothers to Montréal) is somewhat different from the concert scene, revolving more around huge warehouse parties and getting the top international DJs to perform. Young promoters can be hit hard, as Ren and his partners have been — losing about fifteen thousand dollars on one party they set up. But Ren claims not to be discouraged "I'm not in it for the money," he says, "I want to make a name for myself and play the music I want to play."

While Montréal has a good music scene, few young promoters manage to establish themselves within it. Even established promoters find themselves working very long hours during the day, then working their own shows at night. It's a tough but enjoyable alternative to finding a nine-to-five job or flipping burgers. Whatever you do, says Dan Webster, "think long-term and don't worry about upsets. It ain't as easy as it looks so be prepared to take some lumps."

For more information either contact SSMU, or go to Vicious Entertainment at 985-9440, email

daily classifieds

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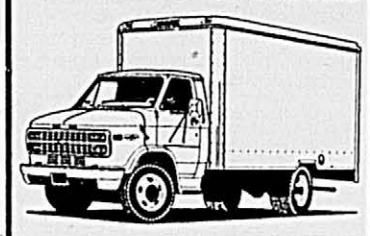

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